



North West Water

Dawson House, Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LW
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FL/A4

20th April, 1982

To: Members of the Regional Fisheries
Advisory Committee:
(Messrs. T.A.F. Barnes (Chairman)
W.S. Bell; A.G.R. Brown; F. Bunting;
H. Caunce; T.M. Farrer; J.H. Fell;
J.E. Gouldbourn; R.D. Houghton;
J. Johnson; I. Jones; G.E. Lowe;
Wm. McKenna; J.E. Redhead; G. Wilson;
Major J.G.W. Skipwith and the Chairman
of the Authority (G. Mann); the Vice
Chairman of the Authority (A. Richardson);
and the Chairmen of the Area Advisory
Committees (J.S. Bailey; J.M. Croft;
E.P. Ecroyd (ex officio)).

Dear Member,

Will you please attend a meeting of the REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE to be held at 2.15 p.m. on MONDAY, 26TH APRIL, 1982, in the BOARD ROOM, DAWSON HOUSE, GREAT SANKEY, for consideration of the following business.

Yours faithfully,

W. H. CRACKLE,
Secretary and Solicitor.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated).
3. Proceedings of Area Fisheries Advisory Committees.

(A) Northern Area - 29th March, 1982.

[Recommendations in the following minutes:

23. Fishery Improvement Grant and Fishing Equipment Loan
Schemes (to be considered under Item No: 4 on the Agenda).

24. Cumbrian Coastal Waters Net Limitation Order.

25. Report by the Area Fisheries Officer on Fisheries Activities].

(B) Central Area - 31st March, 1982.

[Recommendations in the following minutes:

- 20. Fishery Improvement Grant and Fishery Equipment Loan Schemes (to be considered under Item No: 4 on the Agenda).
- 22. Annual Report on Match Fishing - Skerton and Mitton Fisheries.
- 23. Report by the Area Fisheries Officers on Fisheries Activities.
- 25. Rod and Line Fishing Licences Format (to be considered under Item No: 5 on the Agenda)].

(C) Southern Area - 7th April, 1982.

[Recommendations in the following minutes:

- 17. Membership of the Committee.
 - 18. Fishery Improvement Grant and Fishery Equipment Loan Schemes (to be considered under Item No: 4 on the Agenda).
 - 19. Rod and Line Fishing Licences Format (to be considered under Item No: 5 on the Agenda).
 - 23. Rod and Line Licence Duties, Second Rod Licence].
- 4. Fishery Improvement Grant and Fishery Equipment Loan Schemes.
 - 5. Rod and Line Fishing Licences Format.
 - 6. Proposed New Fishery Byelaws - Objections.
 - 7. Atlantic Salmon Trust - Economic Evaluation of Salmon Fishing.
 - 8. Stocking of the Authority's Directly-Managed Trout Fisheries.
 - 9. Procedure for Appointment of Fishing Licence Distributors.
 - 10. Fisheries Income and Expenditure.
 - 11. Calendar of meetings, 1982-83.
 - 12. Any other business.

NOTE: Lunch will be served in the Members' Dining Room at approximately 1.00 p.m.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
NORTHERN AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

29TH MARCH, 1982

Present: E. P. Ecroyd, Esq. (Chairman)
T. A. F. Barnes, Esq. B. Irving, Esq.
A. E. I. Bell, Esq. J. S. Marshall, Esq.
F. Bunting, Esq. Wm. McKenna, Esq.
E. Cave, Esq. G. B. Sedgwick, Esq.,
A. Gleaden, Esq. J. Thompson, Esq.

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. G. Mann, Mr. A. Moffat, Mr. A. Richardson and Mr. G.N.F. Wingate.

19. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 12th October, 1981, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 9TH NOVEMBER AND 14TH DECEMBER 1981

Concern was expressed that on 14th December, 1981, the Regional Committee had rejected the Committee's recommendation for the present three tier rod and line fishing licence structure to be retained. In this connection, a letter written by the Secretary of Cockermouth Angling Association, and addressed to the West Cumberland Times and Star, was read to the Committee. The letter criticised the Regional Committee's decision, allegedly taken on 14th December when, due to the then prevailing inclement weather, only six of the twenty one members of that committee were present at the meeting, not to adopt the Committee's recommendation.

The officers explained that the decision to reject the Committee's recommendation in favour of the proposed four tier structure had been taken by the Regional Committee at an earlier meeting held on 9th November 1981 when sixteen out of the total members were present. The 14th December meeting had merely received notification that the Authority had that day approved the proposed four tier structure together with other recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee, made at that Committee's meeting on 30th November 1981, concerning the proposed 1983 rod and line fishing licence duties.

It was pointed out that, for the first time, the rod and line fishing licence system had been restructured on a sound basis in relation to input of resources by the Fisheries Department. The restructuring

ensured that the total income figure to be borne by the various angling interests had been assessed according to the way in which fisheries resources were deployed, after excluding 50% of the cost of anti-poaching and 15% of the remaining costs of migratory fisheries to reflect the benefit derived by netsmen.

21. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE/AGENDA ITEMS

It was reported that on 9th November, 1981, the Regional Committee had approved the appointment of Mr. A. Moffat of 15 Princess Avenue, Workington to the Committee.

The Chairman reported that Mr. P.F. Murray who had served on the Committee as the representative of Millom Anglers had resigned. It was felt that it would be in the Committee's best interests if Millom Anglers were to nominate Mr. Murray's successor.

The Committee then discussed the administrative procedures in relation to the despatch of the Agenda for meetings of the Committee. It was felt that to enable members to consult their clubs/associations on relevant matters Agendas should be dispatched wherever possible, two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Chairman invite Millom Anglers to nominate a successor to Mr. Murray to serve on the Committee and that he be authorised to submit the name to the April meeting of the Regional Committee for appointment to the Committee.
- (2) That in accordance with Committee minute no.10, of 30th March, 1981, whenever possible the Secretary and Solicitor be requested to arrange for the dispatch of future Agendas to members fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting.

22. WEST CUMBRIA WATER RESOURCES

The Committee considered a report on the implications of the Secretary of State for the Environment's decision not to approve the Authority's proposals for raising the level of Ennerdale Water and the proposals of British Nuclear Fuels Limited for Wastwater.

A re-appraisal of the situation now arising was under way and, as any alternative water supply scheme must of necessity be in the Committees' area, the officers were anxious that members should be kept fully informed of developments. It was accordingly suggested that the Committee might wish to appoint a small advisory Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Committee and of the Regional Committee, together with two or three other members with knowledge of the fisheries of West Cumbria which the officers could consult as the preparation of the revised proposals proceeded. The Sub-Committee could then act as the channel for consultation between the officers and the representatives of local fishery interests.

RESOLVED:

That to enable full consultation between the Authority and fisheries interests in the West Cumbria Area on the subject of an alternative water supply scheme for West Cumbria to take place, a small Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. T.A.F. Barnes be formed and that the other members of that Sub-Committee be the Chairman of the Area Committee Mr. E.P. Ecroyd together with Messrs. F. Bunting, A. Gleaden and A. Moffat, and that the Sub Committee be empowered to co-opt such other persons having specialised knowledge of West Cumbrian rivers as the members of the Sub-Committee consider appropriate.

23. FISHERY IMPROVEMENT GRANT AND FISHERY EQUIPMENT LOAN SCHEMES

The Committee received a paper concerning the introduction of a fishery improvement grant scheme and a fishery equipment loan scheme for the benefit of coarse fishing interests in 1983, in parallel with the proposed new rod and line fishing licence structure.

The paper detailed conditions that would need to be observed in the administration of both schemes in order to protect both the Authority and participants.

RECOMMENDED:

That the conditions relating to the fishery improvement grant and fishery equipment loan schemes as detailed in the report be approved and adopted.

24. CUMBRIAN COASTAL WATERS NET LIMITATION ORDER

The Committee considered a report which detailed the current situation with regard to the recently advertised Cumbrian Coastal Waters Net Limitation Order.

Two objections to the Order had been received; the first by Egremont and District Anglers Association concerned the definition of the excluded area associated with the Rivers Ehen and Calder, which was defined in the Order as "..... the estuaries of the said rivers and those tidal waters and parts of the sea within a radius of 1.5 Km from the centre of the railway bridge over the River Calder at National Grid Reference NY 025 027." The Association referred to the proposed fishery byelaws where it was intended that the netting of migratory fish should be prohibited in the Ehen and Calder estuaries within a radius of 3 Km from NGR NY 025 027 and requested the Minister to amend the Order to accord with the area defined in the byelaws.

The second objection was to the proposal to continue limiting the number of licences for drift, hang or whammel nets to four. Here the objectors suggested that in view of the byelaw proposal to prohibit netting for migratory fish in the protective boxes off the mouths

of the Rivers Derwent and Ellen, the Authority should increase the number of licences for the coastal waters.

RECOMMENDED:

That the first objection of the Egremont & District Anglers Association be accepted, but the second objection referred to be not accepted.

25. REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICES ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on fisheries activities in the area since the last meeting of the Committee. The report included items on river conditions and fishing, migratory fish movement, Holmwrangle hatchery, stocking by angling associations, fish disease, serious offences, management and survey work, staff, and prosecutions. Fish counter data, details of the monthly catches of salmon and sea trout by both rod and line and nets and fixed engines for the 1981 season and details of all fishery prosecutions undertaken by the Authority during 1980 and 1981 were reported to the Committee.

Concern was expressed that no appointment had been made to fill the vacancy for a bailiff in the Border Esk area brought about by retirement due to ill health in February 1982. It was explained that efforts had been made to obtain a voluntary transferee from another area but so far without success. It would be very difficult for the Department to employ an additional bailiff to fill the vacant post due to the present cash limits on expenditure. The Committee deplored the fact that bailiffing staff who left the Authority were not immediately replaced and expressed the view that bailiffing of waters in that area was of great importance, and that a full and well trained bailiffing staff was essential in the interests of safety.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

RECOMMENDED:

That as a matter of priority the outstanding vacancy for a bailiff on the Border Esk be filled and that, on grounds of efficiency, and to ensure the safety of present staff, the existing establishment for bailiffs be maintained.

26. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 1982-83

The proposed dates for the meetings of the Regional and Area Fisheries Advisory Committees for the "Authority Year" 1982-83 were submitted for information, dates for the meetings of the Area Committee be noted as follows:-

Monday	11th October, 1982
Monday	28th March, 1983

27. ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCES FORMAT

The Committee considered a report concerning the possible introduction of a new rod and line fishing licence format for 1983.

Distribution and collection costs of the present licence forms was a major item of expenditure and the report set out alternative options which it was felt would reduce such costs. The first option would be to re-design the present licence in a standardised printing arrangement using adhesive stamps but still with counterfoil. The second system was, a more radical change to a licence card without counterfoil to which adhesive stamps appropriate to the category of licence, would be fixed.

The officers favoured the licence card system. This had a more attractive layout and sense of durability than the present licence, together with advantages in terms of distribution, storage and cost. The card system had been in use in another water authority for several years with complete success. The drawback in the system was the fact that there was no copy or counterfoil to prove that a licence had been issued to a particular person. This would mean that in the event of loss of licence a duplicate could not be issued and a new one would have to be purchased.

RESOLVED:

That, whilst favouring the introduction of the licence card stamp system for rod and line fishing licences, the officers consider the matter further to see if the system could be improved, particularly to deal with the point of giving protection to an angler who lost a licence, and that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

28. FERAL MINK

Concern was expressed at the increase in the feral mink population within the area, and a view was expressed that the Authority might consider giving a bounty to persons killing these pests. Members were informed that in the view of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the complete eradication of the pest was not practicable. The Ministry would however give advice on control measures to interested parties upon request.

29. COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

Members wishing to have items included in agenda for discussion at meetings of the Committee were requested to submit such items to the Secretary and Solicitor of the Authority through the Committee Chairman. This procedure should be used both as a matter of courtesy to the Chairman and to bring to his notice problems connected with fisheries as and when they arose. In appropriate cases, if urgent action appeared to be required, the Chairman could then approach the Regional Fisheries Officer to seek help in having the matter dealt with promptly.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CENTRAL AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

31ST MARCH, 1982

Present: J.M. Croft, Esq. (Chairman)
R. Barratt, Esq. A.L. Harris, Esq.
Dr. R.B. Broughton, R.D. Houghton, Esq.
R.A. Challenor, Esq. G. Jones, Esq.
J.H. Fell, Esq. Professor W.E. Kershaw,
R. Harper, Esq. H.B. Whittam, Esq.

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. W. Bailey; Mr. T.A.F. Barnes; Mr. J. Johnson, Mr. J.P. Lord; Mr. G. Mann and Mr. A. Richardson.

19. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th October, 1981, and the minutes of the joint meeting of the Central and Southern Areas Fisheries Advisory Committees held on 18th January 1982, be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

20. FISHERY IMPROVEMENT GRANT AND FISHERY EQUIPMENT LOAN SCHEMES

The Committee received a paper concerning the introduction of a fishery improvement grant scheme and a fishery equipment loan scheme in 1983 for the benefit of coarse fishing interests. It was hoped that the scheme could be introduced parallel with the proposed rod and line fishing licence restructure in 1983.

The paper detailed the conditions that would need to be observed in the administration of both schemes in order to protect the interests of the Authority and participants.

The Committee felt that condition (vii) of the conditions applicable in relation to the fishery improvement grant scheme was unduly restrictive in requiring confirmation that an applicant under the scheme had security of tenure of not less than 7 years from the date of application for a grant under the scheme.

RECOMMENDED:

That subject to the deletion of the words "for not less than 7 years ahead" in line 7 of clause (vii) of the conditions

applicable in relation to the fishery improvement grant scheme and the substitution of the words "to the satisfaction of the Regional Fisheries Officer" for those words, that the conditions relating to the fishery improvement grant and fishery equipment loan schemes as detailed in the report be approved and adopted.

21. THE RIVER LEVEN SMOLT REARING SCHEME

The Committee received a report which summarised the progress of the River Leven smolt rearing scheme from its commencement in 1978 to the present.

The scheme had envisaged that pre-parr salmon would be reared-on to the smolt stage in cages sited at Dalton-in-Furness and that 10,000 smolts would be introduced annually into the River Leven over a five year period. It was hoped that the introduction of these fish would restore the seriously reduced runs of salmon in that river. All smolts were to be freeze-branded before release to enable any that later returned as adults to be easily identified.

In practice releases of smolts achieved for the years 1979, 80 and 81 had been well below the target figure. The reasons for the shortfall were listed in the report but a further problem which may have obscured results so far obtained had been the ineffectiveness of the freeze-branding system used. Although the techniques employed were based on published literature the results had proved far less durable than indicated and so far only one salmon had been recovered which bore an unmistakeable brandmark. Even so better runs of grilse had occurred in the River Leven during the summer of 1980 than for several previous seasons and although an examination of the scales of 33 fish taken by anglers showed no visible brandmarks a more detailed inspection of these scales suggested that two-thirds could have derived from artificially-reared smolts. It had been interesting to note that in 1980, the year after the release of the first batch of cage-reared smolts, the total returned catch for the River Leven had been nearly four times that of the preceeding year and 67% greater than the average total catch for the previous five years.

It remained to be seen whether captures of adult salmon during the years 1984/85 (two years after the release of the final batch of smolts in 1983) and which could be identified as being derived from cage-reared smolts, would be large enough to justify the continuation of the scheme, and, if so on what basis it should be continued.

22. ANNUAL REPORT ON MATCH FISHING - SKERTON AND MITTON FISHERIES

The Committee considered a report on match fishing on the Skerton and Mitton Fisheries during the 1981 season.

In the case of the Skerton Fishery the quality of the fishing had varied with the water levels, although during periods of low flows there had been good catches. Although thirty-one Sunday matches had

taken place during the year there had been only one Saturday match. It was possible that the lack of interest in Saturday matches could be put down to poor publicity and this would be rectified in the new edition of the angling guide.

At the Mitton Fishery only five of the fourteen available Sunday match fishing dates had been booked. When match fishing at Mitton had been proposed in 1976, members had expressed concern that large numbers of trout would be caught by anglers using bait during matches thereby damaging the trout stocks. This had not been the case, for, during the six years that catches at Mitton had been monitored, an average of only 1.9 trout per match had been caught and this could not be considered as damaging to the trout stocks in the River Ribble. Accordingly the officers recommended that the facility for match fishing on the Mitton Fishery should continue on the same basis as hitherto, but that in view of the small number of trout actually caught, that the annual monitoring report be discontinued.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

RECOMMENDED:

That the facility for match fishing on the Authority's Mitton Fishery continue on the same basis as at present but that the submission of the annual monitoring report on the Fishery be discontinued.

23. REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICERS ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officers presented their report on fisheries activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee. The report included items on river conditions and fishing, migratory fish movement, hatcheries, stocking by the Authority, stocking by angling associations, fish mortalities, fish disease, poaching, and management work. Fish counter data and details of the monthly catches of salmon and sea trout by both rod and line and nets and fixed engines for the 1981 season were included in the report. Professor Kershaw, referring to the fact that salmon ova laid down at the hatcheries for artificial propagation of rivers were derived from many sources, explained that it was now possible to examine the chemical profiles of such fish at the juvenile and adult stages. The technique was similar to that used by MAFF in relation to blood grouping. Examination of the chemical profiles would enable an assessment to be made as to whether or not artificial propagation and restocking of rivers proved successful. Notwithstanding the fact that due to the present economic climate it was unlikely that the Authority could afford to fund the necessary research, the Committee felt that a study of this nature would be invaluable and that the Authority should be urged to give every encouragement to Professor Kershaw to undertake the necessary research. Prof. Kershaw undertook to provide the

RFO with written details of the technique and results so far achieved.

Concern was expressed at the ongoing problem of poaching within the area, and the policy adopted by the Authority in providing the necessary bailiffing staff to combat poaching was questioned. The Regional Fisheries Officer explained that whenever a vacancy for a bailiff arose, it was not automatically filled but had to be considered within the context of the needs of other Departments in Rivers Division in relation to overall Divisional cash limits. Operation within the cash limits was always the governing factor although wherever possible filling of bailiff vacancies had been favourably considered. The Committee felt that the maintenance of an effective, trained bailiffing force was of paramount importance to the fulfillment of the Authority's fisheries functions.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) That the Authority offer every encouragement to Professor Kershaw to report on the possible use of chemico-enzymic analytical techniques to ascertain the success or otherwise (in terms of returning adults) of the present stocking of rivers within the area with salmon produced by artificial propagation.
- (2) That in order to ensure the safety of present staff, the existing establishment for bailiffs be maintained.

24. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, 1982-83

The proposed dates for meetings of the Regional and Area Fisheries Advisory Committees for the 'Authority Year' 1982-83 were submitted for information, dates for meetings of the Area Committee being noted as follows:

Wednesday	13th October, 1982
Wednesday	30th March, 1983

25. ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCES FORMAT

The Committee considered a report concerning the possible introduction of a new rod and line fishing licence format for 1983.

One of the major items of expenditure on the present licencing system was the costs incurred in the distribution and collection of licence forms and the report set out alternative options which it was thought would go a long way to reducing costs. The first option was to re-design the existing licence in a standardised printing arrangement using adhesive stamps, but retaining the actual licence counter-

foil. The second system was a more radical change to a licence card without counterfoil to which adhesive stamps appropriate to the category of licence, would be fixed.

The officers favoured the licence card system, which had a more attractive layout and sense of durability than the present licence together with advantages in terms of distribution, storage and cost. The card system had been in use in another water authority for several years with complete success. The drawback in the system was the fact that no copy or counterfoil was provided to prove that a licence had been issued to a particular person.

The Committee was of the opinion that the card system (option 2) offered the best alternative but felt that a counterfoil should be attached to each licence before stamping and issue. This would be certified and retained by the distributor after a purchaser had filled in his name and address and the distributor had inserted the date and time of issue of the licence. In the case of migratory fish licences another counterfoil, which would remain attached to the licence issued to the purchaser, would be in the form of a postcard and would be in the form of a catch return which would be returned to the Authority at the end of the appropriate fishing season.

RECOMMENDED:

That the licence card/self adhesive stamp rod and line fishing licence format be adopted by the Authority after and from 1st January 1983 and that the actual licence cards have the necessary counterfoils attached as set out above.

26. RIVER DUDDON - DECLINE IN FISH STOCKS

The Regional Fisheries Officer, replying to a question, explained that an investigation was planned in 1982/83 into the possibility that the decline in game fish stocks in the River Duddon was attributable to acid rainfall in the catchment area and/or leaching of acidic material into the river with surface run-off. A similar problem might exist in the case of the S.W. Cumbrian Esk.

27. ANGLING AT STOCKS RESERVOIR

In response to questions concerning angling at Stocks Reservoir the Regional Fisheries Officer replied that investigations into the possible promotion of a trout fishery at the reservoir by the private sector were continuing.

28. ESTHWAITE WATER TROUT FARM - PIKE REMOVAL

The Regional Fisheries Officer sought the view of the Committee on a very recent application by the owner of a trout farm on Esthwaite Water to employ tangle nets to remove the present pike population, with a view to artificially propagating these fish, restocking the lake and conducting a "pike ranching" operation. The Committee felt unable to comment on the situations without being in possession of all relevant facts.

RESOLVED:

That a full report on the situation be submitted to the October meeting of the Committee.

29. RIVER WYRE FISH SURVEY

The Chairman reported that Lancaster University were to undertake a fish survey on the River Wyre from 25th September, 1982. The survey would take approximately one week to complete and would be undertaken on that stretch of the River Wyre between Scorton sewage works and Garstang. Dr. Sergeant of the University's Department of Environmental Services would be in charge of the project. The Chairman would ensure that the Authority were supplied with details of the survey's results once these become available.

RF2/B25

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SOUTHERN AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7TH APRIL, 1982

Present: J. S. Bailey, Esq. (Chairman)
T. A. F. Barnes, Esq. P. Neal, Esq.
J. Blackburn, Esq. R. Newton, Esq.
A.G.R. Brown, Esq. Dr. M. Pugh Thomas
C. Holland, Esq. A. Richardson, Esq.
J. A. Shanahan, Esq.

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. G. Mann.

16. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 21st October, 1981, and the minutes of the joint meeting of the Central and Southern Areas Fisheries Advisory Committees held on 18th January, 1982, be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

17. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chairman introduced Mr. J. Blackburn and welcomed him to his first meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Further to minute no.8 of the last meeting, the Mersey and Weaver Anglers Consultative Association had nominated two of its members, Mr. J.H. Lester of 23 Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 1ES and Mr. F.R. James of 34 Sweet Briar Crescent, Crewe, to serve on the Committee. Both nominees were active in the interests of angling within the area.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Regional Committee be invited to confirm the appointments of Messrs. J.H. Lester and F.R. James to this Committee.

18. FISHERY IMPROVEMENT GRANT AND FISHERY EQUIPMENT LOAN SCHEMES

The Committee received a paper concerning the introduction in 1983 of a fishery improvement grant scheme and a fishery equipment loan scheme for the benefit of coarse fishing interests, the schemes to run in parallel with the proposed rod and line fishing licence restructure for 1983.

The paper detailed the conditions that would need to be observed in the administration of both schemes in order to protect the interests

of the Authority and participants. Except in cases specially authorised by the RFO grant aid would not be given nor equipment loaned to interests on enclosed waters of less than 1 hectare in area as the scheme was to be financed out of a small surcharge on the coarse fish licence and no licence was needed to fish such waters.

Concern having been expressed at the restrictive nature of condition (viii) (the non-acceptance of liability by the Authority) of the fishery equipment loan scheme, the Committee was advised that clubs/associations participating in the scheme would be well advised to take out insurance against the loss or damage of Authority equipment whilst it was under their control.

RECOMMENDED:

That subject to the insertion of a warning on the Equipment Issue Note that persons borrowing equipment were advised to take out their own insurance against loss or damage of equipment loaned by the Authority to them under the fishery equipment loan scheme, the conditions relating to the fishery improvement grant and fishery equipment loan schemes as detailed in the report be approved and adopted.

19. ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCES FORMAT

Consideration was given to a report concerning the possible introduction in 1983 of a new rod and line fishing licence format. The major item of expenditure on the present licence was the costs incurred in the distribution and collection of the present licence forms, and set out in the report were details of two alternative options which it was thought would go a long way to reducing those costs. The first option envisaged a re-design of the existing licence in a standardised printing arrangement using adhesive licence stamps whilst retaining the actual licence counterfoil. The second option envisaged a more radical change to a licence card without counterfoil to which adhesive stamps appropriate to the category of licence would be affixed.

Overall the officers favoured the card system, which had been in use in the Anglian Water Authority area for a number of years with complete success. The advantages of the system lay in the attractive manner of its layout, durability, storage, distribution and costs. The one drawback appeared to be the fact that no copy or counterfoil was provided to prove that a licence had been issued to a particular person.

The Committee favoured the introduction of the card/adhesive licence stamp system with the addition of a counterfoil to be filled in by a purchaser at the time of purchase of a licence with name, address, date and time of issue.

RECOMMENDED:

That the licence card/adhesive licence duty stamp be adopted as the licence format for rod and line angling by the Authority

on and after 1st January 1983 and that the actual licence card have a counterfoil attached whereby a purchaser would fill in his particulars at the time of issue; this counterfoil to be forwarded to the Authority by the distributor in due course.

20. REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on fisheries activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee. The report included items on river conditions and fishing, hatcheries, stocking by the Authority, stocking and/or restocking by angling associations, fish mortalities, fish disease, and management work.

The Regional Fisheries Officer referred to the outbreak of Myxosoma cerebralis, commonly known as Whirling Disease, throughout the country and the problems the outbreak had caused in relation to the stocking of reservoir fisheries with rainbow trout/brown trout this year. Whirling Disease, whilst affecting the fry of primarily, rainbow trout but also brown trout, sea trout and salmon, did not affect the adults of those species and it might be that MAFF would allow the movement of adult fish notwithstanding the fact that 16 day Orders restricting the movement of their fry were in existence. He proposed to produce a paper for the Regional Committee explaining the impact of the situation upon the Authority's directly-managed reservoir trout fisheries. At the present time the authority were not accepting deliveries of fish from affected sources and stocking of these fisheries was entirely dependent upon their own resources at Tintwistle (Hollingworth Reservoir).

In relation to possible improvement of water quality in the River Weaver, the RFO explained that water quality staff were making direct approaches to farmers in the upper part of the catchment with a view to achieving a reduction in the amount of farm drainage which found its way into the river, this being the major problem in that area.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

21. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 1982-83

The proposed dates for meetings of the Regional and Area Fisheries Advisory Committees for the 'Authority Year' 1982-83 were submitted for information, dates for meetings of the Area Committee being noted as follows:

Wednesday	20th October, 1982
Wednesday	6th April, 1983

22. ASTLE PARK LAKE, CHELFORD.

The Committee was informed that workmen draining the lake in a private park at Chelford near Macclesfield had unearthed a quantity of second world war incendiary bombs containing phosphorus. Some of

these bombs, which were in the form of "Molotov cocktails" contained in glass bottles, had found their way into Peover Eye and thence towards the River Weaver some twelve miles downstream. The police and army bomb disposal experts had been alerted to the situation and were carrying out a concerted search of the Brook to try to locate and destroy the missing bottles. The owners of the lake had advised the Authority of their intention to drain the lake but had permitted the works to take place without obtaining the necessary consent. They had been told to cease operations pending the issue of a consent under the provisions of the relevant legislation. The Authority was monitoring the situation and the Committee was advised that enquiries in relation to the current situation should be made to the Authority's Fisheries Department.

23. ROD AND LINE LICENCE DUTIES, SECOND ROD LICENCE.

On 18th June, 1980 (Minute No.33) the Committee had recommended that anglers holding a current Authority rod and line licence to fish for non-migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels, should be allowed to purchase an additional similar licence for their own personal use, at a reduced cost. Whilst this had not been taken into consideration in the present restructure of licence duties for rod and line angling the Committee felt that it was worthy of consideration for inclusion in any subsequent review.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Regional Fisheries Officer prepare a paper on the subject of a second (coarse fish) fishing licence at a reduced cost to anglers, for submission to the next meeting of the Committee and the Northern and Central Area Committees.

FL/A7

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY
REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

26TH APRIL, 1982

FISHERY IMPROVEMENT GRANT AND FISHERY EQUIPMENT LOAN SCHEMES

1. The following report was submitted to the three area committees at their March/April round of meetings. The recommendations of those committees are contained in their respective minutes, but for the convenience of members a summary of these recommendations is given below:

A. Recommendation of Northern Area Committee
(Minute No.23 of 29/3/82)

"That the conditions relating to the fishery improvement grant and fishery equipment loan schemes as detailed in the report be approved and adopted."

B. Recommendation of Central Area Committee
(Minute No.28 of 31/3/82)

"That subject to the deletion of the words "for not less than 7 years ahead" in line 7 of clause (vii) of the conditions applicable in relation to the fishery improvement grant scheme and the substitution of the words "to the satisfaction of the Regional Fisheries Officer" for those words, that the conditions relating to the fishery improvement grant and fishery equipment loan schemes as detailed in the report be approved and adopted."

C. Recommendation of Southern Area Committee
(Minuted No.18 of 7/4/82)

"That subject to the insertion of a warning on the Equipment Issue Note that persons borrowing equipment were advised to take out their own insurance against loss or damage of equipment loaned by the Authority to them under the fishery equipment loan scheme, that the conditions relating to the fishery improvement grant and fishery equipment loan schemes as detailed in the report be approved and adopted."

2. The Committee is now requested to make its own recommendations on this matter.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE26TH APRIL 1982FISHERY IMPROVEMENT GRANT AND FISHERY EQUIPMENT LOAN SCHEMES

1. In parallel with the introduction of a new rod licence structure in 1983, a small surcharge is to be made on the freshwater fish and eels licence. The amount involved will be 20p on the full, and 10p on the concessionary, season licences. The 7 day and 'block' (match fishing) licences will not carry any surcharge. The additional revenue will be used to finance two special schemes. One will deal with the provision of grant-aid, in approved cases, to club projects likely to benefit coarse fisheries. The other scheme will involve the setting up of a pool of miscellaneous fishery equipment which will be available on loan to clubs proposing to use it for the benefit of coarse fisheries. The surcharge on freshwater fish licences is expected to yield some £10,000 per annum and the division of this sum between two schemes will be flexible and varied according to demand.
2. In order to protect both the Authority and participants certain conditions will be required in administration of the schemes. The following conditions shall apply in relation to the fishery improvement grant scheme:-
 - (i) The scheme will be administered by the Regional Fisheries Officer, in collaboration with the Finance Officer, Rivers Division.
 - (ii) Applications for grant-aid will be accepted only from clubs and associations within the region in respect of any waters in the region.
 - (iii) Grant-aid will be given only for projects which are aimed at benefiting coarse fisheries. Preference will be given to small localised projects on waters greater than those of 1 hectare in area, the latter being waters for which no rod licence is required. However, at the RFO's discretion, and subject to availability of funds, limited expenditure on worthwhile schemes on waters under 1 hectare could be approved.
 - (iv) Grant will not be payable for purchases of fish for stocking.
 - (v) The rate of grant may vary, at the discretion of the Authority, having regard to the worthwhileness of the project. In no case shall grant-aid exceed 50% of the authorised or incurred expenditure whichever is less.
 - (vi) Applicants for grant-aid will be required to complete an application form, available from the Regional Fisheries Officer, giving details of their project and of relevant associated matters. Grant-aid will not be payable for projects started without approval. Upon receipt of approval of scheme proposals, work shall commence within two months and be

completed within fifteen months thereafter. Failure to meet these requirements may result in all or part of the grant being withheld. There shall be no limit to the number and timing of projects submitted for approval, but no club or association would normally be permitted to have more than one approved project underway at any one time.

- (vii) Projects will need to satisfy the Regional Fisheries Officer and, if engineering works are involved, the Operations Manager, Rivers Division, that they are practicable, worthwhile and eligible for grant under these general conditions. Where the applicant does not own the fishing rights or the land involved, confirmation would normally be required of security of tenure for not less than 7 years ahead, and of the fishery/landowner's agreement to the work proposed. Should waters for which grant-aid is given be sold or transferred to other interests within a period of two years of completion of the project then the Authority may require reimbursement of all or part of the grant-aid.
- (viii) Applicant clubs which do not already do so would be required to make available on completion of an Authority grant-aided project a number of day tickets (to be agreed with the Authority) for the benefit of the public on any fishing water involved in the project. Alternatively, a club with unrestricted membership and where there is no waiting list for entry may be deemed by the Authority to meet this requirement.
- (ix) Payment of grant will be made by the Authority only on its being satisfied that the project has been completed properly in accordance with the approval and on production, by the club or association concerned, of receipted invoices for all work on the project. No payment will be made in respect of club labour or personal expenses by club members.

3. The following conditions shall apply in relation to the Fishery Equipment Loan Scheme:-

- (i) The Scheme will be administered for the whole region by the Area Fisheries Officer (South) at Bancroft House, Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington (Tel: Penketh 4161, ext. 3428) to whom all applications for loan of equipment should be addressed. The AFO (South) will also be responsible for ensuring that any necessary consents (e.g. for the use of nets or electric fishing gear) are issued to the borrower, and will liaise on this point with AFO(N), where equipment is to be used in his area.
- (ii) A list of equipment available in the pool will be available on request from the Area Fisheries Officer (South).
- (iii) Loan of equipment will be restricted to clubs intending to use it for the benefit of coarse fisheries. No charge will be made for loan of equipment unless transportation to/from site is required, or the equipment is returned in a damaged

condition and requires repair. Equipment will not be loaned for use on enclosed waters of less than 1 hectare in area, (these being waters for which no rod licence is required), except in circumstances specially authorised by the Regional Fisheries Officer.

- (iv) Electric fishing gear and chain-saws may not be used unless a member of the Fisheries Department, experienced in their use, is present and all proper safety precautions are observed.
- (v) Equipment will not normally be loaned out for a period of more than two weeks. This period may, however, be extended with the approval of the Area Fisheries Officer when in his opinion valid reasons exist.
- (vi) During the continuance of the loan period the borrower shall:-
 - (a) Ensure that when in use the equipment is operated in a skilful and proper manner and by persons who are competent to operate it.
 - (b) Keep the equipment in good repair and condition (fair wear and tear excepted) and will permit any officer of the Fisheries Department, at all reasonable times, to enter any premises in which the equipment is kept, for the purpose of examination.
 - (c) Make arrangements for the safe keeping of the equipment either at the address of the borrower or at some secure place near the site at which the work is being carried out.
 - (d) Not sell, let, loan, or otherwise dispose of, or part with, the equipment.
 - (e) Notify the Area Fisheries officer immediately of any damage to, or breakdown or loss of any of the equipment and seek advice on the necessary action to be taken.
 - (f) Pay to the Authority the cost of replacing, missing, damaged or broken equipment or parts thereof.
 - (g) Pay to the Authority all expenses (including legal costs on a full indemnity basis) incurred by the Authority or on its behalf in ascertaining the whereabouts of, or repossessing, the equipment, and of any legal proceedings taken by or on behalf of the Authority to enforce these conditions.
- (vii) The Authority accepts no responsibility of any kind for any defects in any equipment and does not warrant that it is suitable for the particular purposes for which it is or may be required. All conditions, warranties and representations, whether express or implied in favour of the borrower are hereby excluded.

- (viii) No liability whatsoever shall attach to the Authority either in contract or in tort for loss injury or damage (not being loss, injury or damage arising from the Authority's negligence) sustained by reason of any defect in the equipment whether such defect be latent or apparent on examination, or by reason of the use of the equipment by the borrower whether such use be authorised or not by these conditions or any other term of borrowing the equipment, and the Authority shall not be liable to indemnify the borrower in respect of any claim made against the borrower by a third party for any loss, injury or damage (except as aforesaid).
 - (ix) In these conditions "the equipment" includes all replacements and renewals thereof and all accessories and additions thereto whether made before or after the time and date of the issue of the equipment to the borrower.
 - (x) No relaxation forbearance or indulgence by the Authority in enforcing any of these conditions or any other term of borrowing the equipment nor the granting of time by the Authority to the borrower shall prejudice or affect the rights and powers of the Authority hereunder nor shall any waiver of any breach operate as a waiver for any subsequent or continuing breach.
4. The conditions above will be set out on the Equipment Issue Note. The provisions in (vi), (g) and (vii) to (x) are specifically for the protection of the Authority in respect of legal liabilities which might arise.

FL/A6

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE26TH APRIL, 1982ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCES FORMAT

1. The attached report was submitted to the three area committees at their March/April round of meetings. The recommendations of these committees are contained in their respective minutes, but for the convenience of members a summary of these recommendations is given below:

- A. Resolution of Northern Area Committee
(Minute No. 27 of 29/3/82)

"That whilst favouring the introduction of the licence card and stamp system for rod and line fishing licences, the officers consider the matter further to see if the system could be improved, particularly to deal with the point of protection to an angler who lost a licence, and that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee."

- B. Recommendation of Central Area Committee
(Minute No. 28 of 31/3/82)

"That the licence card and stamp rod and line fishing licence format be adopted by the Authority after and from 1st January 1983 and that the actual licence cards have the necessary counterfoils attached as set out above."

(i.e. one counterfoil, to be retained by a distributor, would give details of purchaser, time and date of purchase and type of licence; the other counterfoil would, in the case of migratory fish licences, be in the form of a catch return which would be returned to the Authority at the end of the appropriate fishing season).

- C. Recommendation of Southern Area Committee
(Minute No. 19 of 7/4/82)

"That the licence card/adhesive licence duty stamp be adopted as the licence format for rod and line angling by the Authority on and after 1st January 1983 and that the actual licence card have a counterfoil attached whereby a purchaser would fill in his particulars at the time of issue; this counterfoil to be forwarded to the Authority by the distributor in due course."

2. The Committee is now requested to make its own recommendations on this matter.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

26TH APRIL 1982

ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCES - FORMAT

1. At their meeting on 14th October 1981 the Central Area Fisheries Advisory Committee recommended:-

"That in order to reduce the costs incurred by the Authority in printing and issuing fishing licences, the following procedures be investigated: blank, standard fishing licences together with self-adhesive stamps indicating the type of licence and cost be printed and issued to distributors who on payment of the requisite fee by a purchaser would affix the appropriate stamp to a blank licence."

2. Two options seem open to the Authority in redesigning the present format. These are to re-design the present licence in a standardised printing arrangement using self adhesive stamps but still with counterfoil or a more radical change to licence cards also using self adhesive stamps. If the stamp system is to be used as an indicator of the category of licence, duty stamps will have to be printed for the 12 categories of licence which the Authority will issue for 1983. That is, the four tier system multiplied by the full, concessionary and seven day options.
3. Distribution and collection costs of the present licence forms (which are fastened together in booklets of 10 licences and 10 counterfoils) are not identified as a separate item in the Division costings, but the total cost of printing licences for 1982 was £4,200.
4. There are approximately 350 approved distribution outlets for the sale of Authority licences and, if the licences are in a re-designed booklet format, the distributors would still be responsible for completing personal details of the licence holder and time and date of issue before affixing the appropriate duty stamp. However, by using this booklet there would still be a carbon copy showing to whom the licence was issued, together with time and date of issue. For financial control each stamp would have to be transcribed to the carbon copy of the licence form. This in effect, would be additional work for licence distributors. With a re-designed format, on the above basis, there would be a marginal saving on printing and distribution costs. The estimated costs for 1982 on such a basis would have been £4,150.
5. The licence card system which has been in use with another Water Authority for several years, has a more attractive layout and sense of durability than the present licence and has advantages in terms of distribution and storage. The procedure used for these cards is that the person requiring the licence completes his/her personal details at the distribution point. The card does not, however, become a valid

licence until the distributor has inserted the time and date of issue, affixed the self-adhesive numbered stamp appropriate to the duty payable and cancelled the stamp manually or with his business rubber stamp. The cost of printing licence cards, including catch return cards, would be considerably less than the existing or re-designed booklet system. However, like the previous alternative, printing of duty stamps would still be necessary. Estimated cost for 1982 - £1,209.

6. There is no copy or counterfoil to be maintained by distributors and this is a significant saving in time taken in issuing and in storage space for distributors. As there is no copy or counterfoil, a warning to the licence holder is printed conspicuously on both sides of the licence to the effect that should the licence be lost or mislaid a duplicate cannot be issued.
7. To the angler who loses his licence this would be cause for apprehension, irritation and another payment. However, it has far greater significance if the angler is asked to produce the licence by a bailiff or other authorised person and is unable to do so. Many anglers when asked to produce a licence claim that they have left it at home. In some cases this is genuine, but in others false and no licence is actually held. Under the terms of section 35(3), Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 they are then granted 7 days to produce their licence or proof of purchase. If they do not produce a licence or proof of purchase within the 7 days prosecution normally follows. The card system without a copy or counterfoil means that the angler who has lost a licence is in no different position from others who have not purchased a licence but claim to possess one when questioned. In considering prosecution it would be virtually impossible for the Authority to distinguish between the cases and both would be at the risk of prosecution. Whether asked to produce a licence or not, the onus would be on anglers to avoid their loss.
8. Apart from this aspect, the use of the licence card and stamp system has considerable advantages over the existing method including simplification of completion at distribution outlets, savings in printing cost and the end of the year records are reduced from a bulk of unused and completed licence forms and counterfoils to unused stamps. The Committee should appreciate that if the simplified licence card system is introduced, reversal to a more complex system in future would probably be met with considerable opposition by distributors. The officers are of the view that the licence card and stamp system has considerable merit and should be introduced in time for the 1983 season. The Committee is invited to consider and comment upon the proposals.

F2/B6

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE26TH APRIL, 1982.PROPOSED NEW FISHERY BYELAWS - OBJECTIONS

1. Following the Authority advertising its application to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for confirmation of the proposed new Byelaw Code, the Minister has received 25 objections, mostly from Angling Associations, but with a few from private individuals.
2. As always the Ministry have requested the Authority to negotiate with the objectors to see how far it is possible to meet their objections, before the Ministry decide whether or not an inquiry should be held.
3. The purpose of this report is therefore to outline the objections received, advise the Committee where it is felt objections could be met and to seek authority for the officers to negotiate with the objectors in such cases, on the lines of the recommendations in this report.

A. Proposed Byelaw No. 3 - Annual close season for migratory trout
(rod and line)

"The annual close season for fishing for migratory trout with rod and line shall be the period from and including the 1st day of October to and including the 15th day of April following."

Objectors

Blackburn and District AA
Cockermouth AA
Mr. I. B. Dearing
Egremont and District AA
Millom and District AA
S. & W. Cumberland FA
Staveley and District AA
Ulverston Anglers
Mr. J. Urmston

Present Byelaw

The present byelaw lays down an annual close season from and including 16th October to and including 30th April following except in the Rivers Annas, Bleng, Esk, Mite, Irt, Calder and Ehen (hereinafter referred to as the West Cumbrian Rivers) where the annual close season is the period from and including the 1st November to and including 30th April following.

Objections

To bringing forward the start of the annual close season by 31 days for the West Cumbrian Rivers, and by 15 days for the other rivers in the area.

Recommendation

Whilst the Officers cannot recommend the continuation of the present exemption for the West Cumbrian Rivers, they could recommend a compromise of an annual close season for the whole area from and including 16th October to and including 15th April.

B. Proposed Byelaw No. 5 - Annual close season for rainbow trout

"The annual close season for fishing for rainbow trout with rod and line shall be the period from and including the 1st day of October to and including the 14th day of March following except that in all lakes, reservoirs and enclosed waters there shall be no close season for rainbow trout."

Objector

British Waterways Board

Objection

"Enclosed waters" should be defined.

Recommendation

For the avoidance of doubt it is suggested that "enclosed waters" should be defined as "waters from which or into which fish cannot normally swim to or from other waters."

C. Proposed Byelaw No. 6 - Annual close season for char (rod and line)

"The annual close season for fishing for char with rod and line shall be the period from and including the 1st day of October to and including the 14th day of March following except in the following waters where the annual close season shall be as stated:

- (i) In Coniston Water, the period from and including the 1st day of February to and including the 30th day of April following.
- (ii) In Lake Windermere, the period from and including the 1st day of October to and including the 30th day of April following. PROVIDED that it shall be lawful from and including the 15th day of March to fish for char with artificial lures from a moving boat."

Objectors

Coniston and Torver District AA
Furness and S.Cumbria FA
Windermere, Ambleside and District AA

Present Byelaw

Present annual close season for non-migratory trout and char is from 1st October to 14th March throughout the region. This does not adequately protect the spring spawning stock which is the only stock in Coniston and which co-exists with an autumn-spawning stock in Windermere. The saving clause will enable autumn-spawning char in the deeper waters of Windermere to continue to be fished as at present.

Objection

Annual close season on Coniston should start earlier to protect stocks from very heavy exploitation.

Recommendation

The annual close season on Coniston should be from and including 1st October to and including 30th April following.

D. Proposed Byelaw No. 7 - Annual close season for freshwater fish

"The annual close season for fishing for freshwater fish shall be the statutory period that is the period from and including the 15th day of March to and including the 15th day of June following."

Objector

The National Anguilla Club

Objection

The proposed byelaw does not provide that fishing for eels during the annual close season for freshwater fish shall be lawful, as does the present byelaw.

Recommendation

Eel fishing should not be permitted during the annual close season for freshwater fish and therefore the proposed byelaw should stand. The pretext of eel fishing is widely used to cover fishing for FWF during the close season. As eels can occur, probably, in all waters, this is a claim which cannot be refuted, even if tackle and bait likely to take FWF also is being used, and prosecution is thus pointless.

E. Byelaw No. 9 - Limitation of Netting

The proposed byelaw allows the use of certain specified nets in certain specified parts of the Authority's area including:-

Sub-paragraph (c) - The Cumbrian Coastal Waters excluding protected areas off the mouths of the Rivers Ellen, Derwent, Ehen/Calder and Irt/Esk - drift hang or whammel nets.

Sub-paragraph (h) - In the River Wyre Estuary - heave or haaf nets after the 30th June 1982.

Objectors to sub-paragraph (c)

Messrs. D. and W. Campbell
W. Carruthers and A. Sewell
Maryport Fishermans Club - petition with 93 signatures

Objection to sub-paragraph (c)

Messrs. Campbell, Carruthers and Sewell object to the exclusion of the protected areas off the Rivers Derwent and Ellen. The Fishermans' Club fear that this might be extended to cover trammell and gill nets to catch cod and ray.

Recommendations concerning sub-paragraph (c)

The proposed byelaw must stand. As members will remember this was included specifically to plug the gap in the present byelaws which permits draw, draft or seine nets off the Ellen and Derwent estuaries. A "protected area" should be just that, with no legal netting for salmon and sea trout permitted. As for the Club's fears, these are completely unfounded as this Authority has no powers over sea fishing.

Objectors to sub-paragraph (h)

Garstang and District AA
Lune and Wyre FA
Wyresdale Anglers

Objection to sub-paragraph (h)

The present prohibition on the use of heave or haaf nets in the R. Wyre estuary should be extended until 6.12.89, when the present Net Limitation Order restricting the number of heave and haaf nets to four expires.

Recommendation concerning sub-paragraph (h)

In the present byelaws heave or haaf nets (limited by Order renewed in 1979 to 4) will be allowed in the Wyre estuary after the 30th June 1982. This date was continued in the proposed new code, but if the Committee wish to continue the present ban on netting in the Wyre estuary after the 30th June 1982, they are recommended to agree to the objection. Runs of migratory fish into the R. Wyre are small and unlikely to be able to support any netting exploration while still allowing a spawning stock to survive.

F. Proposed Byelaw No. 17 - Prohibition of taking of undersized fish

The proposed byelaw limits size of migratory trout, brown trout

and char and several other species of freshwater fish. This byelaw however would not apply to any person who:-

"(i) ...

(ii) ...

(iii) Takes any undersized fish other than salmon or trout and uses them as bait on the same day as he took them, provided that at any one time he does not have in his possession more than 10 such fish alive or dead."

Objector

Hyndburn and Blackburn AA

Objection

Wants (iii) above to read:-

"Takes any undersized fish other than salmon or migratory trout on rod and line and uses them as bait on the same day and on the same water from which he took them provided that at any one time he does not have on his possession more than ten such fish alive or dead.

Recommendation

The addition of the "migratory" before "trout" is unnecessary as "trout" includes "migratory trout". The addition of the words "on rod and line" are also unnecessary as the fish could not lawfully be taken by any other means. The addition of the words "on the same water from which he took them" could however have merit in helping to prevent illegal transfer of fish from one water to another, and is recommended.

F. Proposed Byelaw No. 19 - Fishing near weirs

The proposed byelaw prohibits fishing within 20 metres above and 50 metres below any manmade impoundments without the consent of the Authority, between 30th September and the start of the salmon close season, in the Ribble catchment upstream of the Naze at Freckleton (excluding the Rivers Darwen and Douglas) and rivers and streams north of the Ribble Catchment."

Objectors

Hyndburn and Blackburn AA

Mr. I. B. Dearing

Objections

Mr. Dearing wants restriction to apply throughout the area and to extend to natural obstructions e.g. waterfalls. Hyndburn agree with the byelaw but object to the inclusion of the River Calder which they say should be excluded as are the Rivers Darwen and Douglas.

Recommendation

Agree to exclusion of the River Calder as well as the Rivers Darwen and Douglas. Extension to internal waterfalls would involve the almost insuperable problem of defining a "natural waterfall", though the basis of the proposal is eminently sensible.

G. Byelaw No. 20 - Limitation on the use of Gaff

"It shall be lawful to use a gaff in connection with fishing with rod and line for salmon and migratory trout during the period from and including the 1st day of May in any year to and including the 31st day of August following."

Objectors

Hyndburn and Blackburn AA
Mr. I. B. Dearing
Ribblesdale AA

Objections

Hyndburn don't want use of gaff made lawful at all. Ribblesdale AA and Mr. Dearing support the use of gaffs and want permitted period extending to at least 30th September as in the present byelaws.

Recommendation

Proposed byelaw should stand as drafted, although RFO could accept period extending to 30/9.

H. Proposed Byelaw No. 22 - Size of Hooks and Weight of Lures

"No person shall use in fishing with rod and line for salmon or trout after the 31st day of August in any year:

- (i) double, treble or multiple hooks any of which exceed 8mm in width of gape.
- (ii) any lure or weight which (together or singly) exceed 30g in weight.

The provisions of part (ii) of this byelaw shall not apply to persons fishing for char in lakes Windermere and Coniston."

Objectors

Blackburn and District FA
Border Esk and Liddle CA
Cockermouth AA
Kent (Westmorland) AA
Mr. N. MacKenzie
Mr. A. Sanderson
S. & W. Cumberland FA

Objections

Apart from Kent (Westmorland) AA who want the word "single" adding before the word "double" in 22(i) the remainder of the objections are against the maximum width of gape of 8 mm. The point is made that many types of tackle bought today have gapes in excess of 8mm. This, however, does not prevent an angler from changing the illegal treble for a legal one, and liaison with the Tackle Manufacturers Association could overcome the sales problem.

Recommendation

Neither objections can be recommended and the proposed byelaw should stand as drafted.

I. Proposed Byelaw No. 23 - Return of Foul Hooked Fish

"All salmon and migratory trout hooked otherwise than in the mouth shall be returned to the water as soon as practicably possible and with as little injury as possible."

Objectors

Border Esk and Liddle CA
Mr. I. B. Dearing

Objections

Border Esk and Liddle want present byelaw retained viz:-

"All salmon and migratory trout hooked in any part of the body behind the posterior edge of the gill cover shall be returned to the water as soon as practicably possible and with as little injury as possible."

Mr. Dearing does not like the restriction and thinks the Authority should control foul hooking by using the provisions of the Act e.g. Section 1.

Recommendation

Proposed byelaw should stand as drafted.

F2/B3

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE26TH APRIL, 1982.ATLANTIC SALMON TRUSTECONOMIC EVALUATION OF SALMON FISHING

1. The Atlantic Salmon Trust has invited the Authority to participate in a national economic survey of salmon fishing. This would be the first survey of its kind and the Trust makes the following points in support of the proposal:-
 - (a) The proposed International Atlantic Salmon Convention is likely to include a clause requiring salmon producing countries to submit information on their efforts to ensure the conservation and enhancement of their salmon stocks, including the costs incurred and the social and economic benefits expected in return.
 - (b) Greenland and the Faroes have used economic arguments to support the continuance of their fisheries which capture salmon originating solely in Europe and North America. The United Kingdom is not in a position to counter these arguments with data indicating the value of its own salmon resource.
 - (c) The value of the resource should be known to enable the submission of valid arguments in connection with the allocation of water resources. The socio-economic value is a vital part of these arguments but is difficult to quantify.
 - (d) The increasing value of salmon fishing to tourism needs further study.
2. The survey would involve sending out a three page questionnaire to salmon anglers with a view to assessing how much anglers spend on their sport, including cost of travel, subsistence, tackle, licences and permits. This would provide water authorities with estimates of the income and employment impact which the expenditure of anglers has on the economy. On the grounds that goods are worth at least as much as one is willing to spend on them, then the gross expenditure gives some indication of how valuable the resource is to the UK economy overall and can be used on the international negotiating table.
3. The Water Authorities are asked to arrange the despatch, collection and coding of the questionnaires which would then be processed and analysed on the Portsmouth Polytechnic computer. The Polytechnic would then produce a comprehensive report which would be available to water authorities and the Government.

4. The Authority's share of the costs of the survey are estimated to be as follows:-

	£
Printing, postage, stationery	3,000
Coding, punching, verifying	2,000
Additional manpower requirements	1,000
Portsmouth Polytechnic's costs	1,000
	<u>£7,000</u>

5. The Atlantic Salmon Trust has underwritten the costs of the project incurred to November 1981 but, should the 10 regional water authorities agree to "participate", they propose that past and future costs should be borne by the RWA's.
6. The officers consider that the information obtained from the survey could be of considerable value in international negotiations about salmon netting on the high seas. The survey's value to this and other water authorities is less obvious. It is understood that the Chief Inspector of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food holds the view that it would be more appropriate if the survey were paid for by that Ministry. This view was reached independently by your officers.
7. Accordingly, it is recommended that North West Water Authority should agree to assist to the extent of organising the survey in this region but with the proviso that the cost (estimated at £7000 for this region alone) be borne either by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, some other Government Department or possibly the European Economic Community.

F1/A1

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY
REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

26TH APRIL, 1982

STOCKING OF THE AUTHORITY'S DIRECTLY-
MANAGED RESERVOIR TROUT FISHERIES

1. The Authority provides public trout fishing, on season or day tickets, at a number of reservoirs in Western, Pennine and Eastern Divisions. These waters are managed as "put and take" fisheries and are restocked at regular intervals during the fishing season, mainly with rainbow trout. Supplies of trout for stocking come from two sources - the Authority's own trout farm at Hollingworth Reservoir, Longdendale, where fish are reared to the required size in floating net cages on the reservoir, and a commercial fish farm, fish from which normally make up some 50% of the total, though in 1982 the proportion is rather less, due to better-than-usual stocks at Hollingworth. The external supplier is not always the same farm, as tenders are invited annually for the supply of the trout required. For 1982, the external supplier is Cambrian Fisheries of Mold, Flintshire.
2. On 16th March, notice was received from MAFF that Cambrian Fisheries had been placed under an Infected Area Order, made under the Diseases of Fish Act, 1937 following confirmation of the existence of Myxosoma cerebralis, commonly known as Whirling Disease, on the farm. Whirling Disease is a "notifiable disease" under the Act, and when an Infected Area Order has been imposed, no fish may be moved off the site without prior written consent from MAFF. At the present time, some 30 fish farms throughout England are subject to movement restrictions imposed by the Ministry, including all those in the North from which supplies of trout have been obtained at various times in the past. The only alternative sources not affected by restrictions at present are in Scotland. The cost of fish from such sources is higher than from Cambrian Fisheries, and the expense of regular deliveries over a considerably greater distance would further enhance the cost by a large amount. Of even greater concern is the fact that the long haul during the warm summer months could result in trout being delivered in a debilitated condition. There is, of course, no certainty at present that even these farms will not become subject to movement restrictions in the coming months.
3. If Cambrian Fisheries are to obtain a clean bill of health from the Ministry, it will be necessary for them to de-stock the farm completely, to disinfect it to a programme laid down by the Ministry, and then to build up their stocks once more. The Regional Fisheries Officer has ascertained that they intend to do this, but probably not until October 1982.
4. The Regional Fisheries Officer has had discussions with the Ministry's Fish Diseases Laboratory at Weymouth regarding the level of risk which would accompany the use, for stocking directly-managed Authority

reservoir fisheries, of trout from an infected farm, in a situation where the discharge from the reservoirs soon flows into polluted reservoirs. As Whirling Disease is a disease of, principally, rainbow trout fry under the crowded conditions which exist in hatcheries, and as adult fish can only be carriers of the spores of the causative organism, the opinion of the Fish Diseases Laboratory is that, in the circumstances described, there would be no risk of disease among adult fish in a reservoir fishery, and any risks downstream of the reservoir would be insignificant, since, at best, there will be only a limited population of small native brown trout in any short length at the head of the river before it becomes polluted. The disease has no effect upon adult fish, and in no way diminishes their quality for restocking. Further, it is not transmissible to humans and any fish taken can be eaten quite safely. In their view, therefore, there could be no reasonable objection to the supply of trout from an infected source to those of the Authority's own reservoir fisheries where the outflow soon suffers polluted conditions. Further security is provided by the fact that almost all the rivers flowing out of these reservoirs ultimately join the fishless River Mersey.

5. Subject, therefore, to formal Ministry consent, being forthcoming, there would seem to be no reason, in relation to the spread of disease, why trout from Cambrian Fisheries should not continue to be used for stocking at any rate some of the directly-managed Authority reservoir fisheries. These are: Entwistle, Wayoh, Dingle, Heaton (which will be out of commission, however, during the summer of 1982), and Walkerwood, all of them in Pennine Division. This arrangement should not, however, apply to Upper Roddlesworth and Upper Rivington Reservoirs which are on the headwaters of the River Douglas which flows into the Ribble Estuary, nor should it apply to Bottoms, Vale House and Cote Lodge Reservoirs in the Longdendale Valley. Although the outflow from these Longdendale Reservoirs ultimately joins the River Mersey via the River Etherow, this latter river has improved considerably in quality in its upper reaches and at present supports a Club trout fishery. Although in both these instances the risks of transmission of any infection are extremely remote, it is considered only sensible to avoid them entirely.
6. If the Ministry were to agree to this arrangement, the Regional Fisheries Officer would be prepared to authorise the introduction of trout from Cambrian Fisheries. Similarly should a club seek consent for introduction of trout from an infected source to a water discharging to a polluted river within the Mersey Catchment, it would be equally reasonable to issue a consent for their introduction. However, most of the applications for stocking consents which are received are associated with the stocking of rivers which carry stocks of salmon or trout, or of waters which discharge into such rivers, and in no circumstances should stocking consents be issued for introduction to these waters from an infected source, even if the Ministry were to agree - which is considered to be extremely unlikely.
7. It is possible that action along these lines could give rise to

allegations, from both anglers and fish farms under Ministry Movement Restriction Orders, that the Authority was discriminating in favour of its own reservoir fisheries in the matter of introduction of trout from an infected farm. The officers, however, are of the opinion that, in the particular circumstances described, stocking of the named Authority fisheries with fish from, in this case, Cambrian fisheries would present no threat to fish stocks generally. They therefore recommend that, subject to the prior agreement of the Ministry, these fish should be introduced in due course. They further recommend that, if applications are received for introduction of trout from an infected source to other stillwater fisheries, in circumstances comparable with those of the Authority's own reservoir fisheries, they should be favourably considered, subject always to Ministry consent being forthcoming.

F2/All

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE26TH APRIL 1982PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTMENT OF FISHING LICENCE DISTRIBUTORS

1. At a meeting of the Committee on 1st February, 1982, information was requested by members on the procedure adopted in appointing licence distributors.
2. When an application is received from a new Agency, five questions are considered:-
 - (i) Where are the nearest existing agencies ?
 - (ii) What has been the level of licence sales through those agencies during the previous two years ?
 - (iii) Are there any geographical difficulties which hinder anglers in reaching the existing agencies ?
 - (iv) Have licence distribution arrangements in the neighbourhood proved satisfactory through the existing agencies ?
 - (v) Has the Authority received any complaints from anglers that they are having difficulty in obtaining licences ?
3. If, in the light of the answers to these questions it appears that there would be benefits to the angling public in appointing the applicant he is asked for the name and address of his bankers from whom the Authority's bankers then obtain a confidential reference. If that is satisfactory he is then sent a copy of the "Agent's Manual", together with a form of agreement, and a covering letter which explains to him, among other things, that having signed the agreement he will be responsible for conducting the agency in accordance with the requirements set out in the "Manual" and, further, that for the first 12-month period he will be required to pay in advance for any licences supplied to him.
4. His performance as a distributor, and the level of licence sales achieved by him, will be reviewed by the Divisional Finance Officer at the end of the first 12-month period, when one of three courses will be adopted.
 - (i) If he has proved unsatisfactory the agency will be terminated.
 - (ii) If any doubt exists about the level of sales achieved he may be asked to continue for a further 12 months on a "cash in advance" basis.
 - (iii) If he has proved entirely satisfactory he will be placed on a full credit basis for the supply of licences, this being the normal arrangement for distributors who have proved their reliability and effectiveness.

5. It is not unusual for the proprietor of a newly-established fishing tackle shop to regard it as his right to hold a licence distributorship. This, however, is not the case. If satisfactory agencies already exist in the area the appointment of a new distributor will be likely merely to redistribute the licence business from the established agencies and increase the cost of licence distribution without improving the service to anglers.

F2/A29

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE26TH APRIL 1982FISHERIES INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

On 1st March 1982, (minute no. 48) the Policy and Resources Committee endorsed the Committee's recommendation that the present "freeze" on the fisheries revenue budget (imposed in 1977) be rescinded. The recommendation was approved by the Authority on 15th March 1982.

F2/A8

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

REGIONAL AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

26TH APRIL 1982

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, 1982-83

1. On 1st March 1982, the Policy and Resources Committee approved a draft calendar of meetings for the Authority, Committees and Sub-Committees for the 'Authority Year' from June 1982 to June 1983 for submission to the Authority for consideration in accordance with Rule 1(3) of the Rules of the Authority at the Annual Meeting to be held on 14th June 1982.
2. The dates proposed for meetings of the Regional and Area Fisheries Advisory Committees are set out in the appendix hereto for the information of members. Any variations made at the Annual Meeting will be notified.

APPENDIX

REGIONAL AND AREA FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEESCALENDAR OF MEETINGS 1982-83

<u>ADVISORY COMMITTEE</u>	<u>TIME AND DATE OF MEETING</u>	
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday	5th July 1982
Northern Area	2.30 p.m. Monday	11th October 1982
Central Area	2.30 p.m. Wednesday	13th October 1982
Southern Area	2.30 p.m. Wednesday	20th October 1982
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday	8th November 1982
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday	31st January 1983
Northern Area	2.30 p.m. Monday	28th March 1983
Central Area	2.30 p.m. Wednesday	30th March 1983
Southern Area	2.30 p.m. Wednesday	6th April 1983
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday	25th April 1983